

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed."

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), Educator

Purchasing Update

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New Lower-Cost NIGP Courses Now Available

NIGP Announces On-Line Courses - Bid Process/Evaluation and Specification Writing Now Available

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) continues to offer new and innovative training opportunities for the procurement community. Developed around two technical topics currently delivered by NIGP in the classroom, registrations are now being accepted for "How to Process and Evaluate Bids" and "Specification Writing". These on-line self-paced courses provide each registrant with a copy of the current text and utilize practical applications and quizzes to supplement the learning activities. In addition, the student will be able to ask questions of a subject matter expert who will be available via electronic mail.

NIGP is committed to providing training that accommodates the procurement professional's schedule and the agency budget. In a recent pulse survey opinion poll conducted by the Institute, twenty percent of the respondents indicated that they are unable to travel beyond their state borders for professional development opportunities. The infusion of these two classes into the current curriculum may have long-term implications as to the way training is developed and delivered for future generations. According to Ginger Beaupre of City of Homestead, Florida, "Having taken classroom seminars in the past, on-line courses are the way to go." On-line seminars support professional development on limited budgets while delivering training directly to the office. As Cheryl Middleton of Loudoun County, VA says "Why leave the office when you can learn at your desk at your own pace!" This is a perfect platform for training new employee in need of the information sooner rather than later.

Students have ninety days to complete this self-paced, self-assessing class.

For a complete course description and fee schedule, visit the NIGP Web Site by using the link - http://www.nigp.org/professional_development/OnlineTraining.htm.

Registration for either class begins at the low rate of \$125 for all National members. Higher registration amounts are charged for chapter and non-member participants. For questions and comments related to Distance Learning, please contact Cornelia Gallow at mailto:cgallow@nigp.org or at 800-FOR-NIGP x233.

NIGP Webinars Are Now A Training Option

Although the need for training and professional development is greater then ever, available funds are becoming increasingly limited. To address this need, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) has developed an alternative, cost-effective way for the Procurement Professional to keep up with relevant and current hot topics. Integrating computer and phone, NIGP is now delivering web-enabled interactive seminars - Webinars! - to an unlimited number of professionals.

Webinars overcome objections to time out of the office, budget restrictions for travel and availability of training dollars. These 90-minute sessions, incorporating networking and learning, offer the chance to interact in "real time" with the presenter and others from across the country. Participants can ask questions, network, earn contact hours and have an active role in their professional development - all at their fingertips! With NIGP Webinars, purchasing managers can train more employees, maximize training dollars and boost productivity.

At \$75, Webinars are extremely cost-effective to the NIGP national member. (Fees are \$100 for participants who do not hold a national membership). The \$75 fee covers participation by one employee. Each additional employee joining the Webinar pays \$25. Each registered participant receives 1 contact hour of training that is tracked by the Institute and reported to the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) for re-certification points.

Several webinars are scheduled for the remainder of 2003. To see the offerings and register go to the NIGP's Website at: http://www.nigp.org/professional_development/Webinars.htm

For more information on this and future Webinars, please contact NIGP at <u>distancelearning@nigp.org</u> or call 1-800-FOR-NIGP x233.

Contract Updates

Contract SBPO 1117 - Oracle Corporation - Database Software Licensing. This is an extension of Contract SBPO 94. Contract is for licensing of Oracle Database software products. It does NOT include Oracle applications. Agencies are encouraged to read the Contract Amendment to ensure proper ordering procedures. Contract expires February 28, 2004, but has renewal options.

Contract SBPO 1119 - Unisource - Paper and Plastic Products. Amendment 9 effective June 1, 2003 increased the price of most Kimberly Clark products on Schedule A by an average 2%. There were some minor changes on other schedules, but they were mostly housekeeping changes. Contract expires December 21, 2003, but has an additional six-month extension option.

Contract SBPO 1085 - Xpedx Corporation - Bond Paper. Amendment 9 effective June 2, 2003 DECREASED most paper prices an average of 5%. Contract expires December 10, 2003. It is expected this contract will be rebid.

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Liquid Deicer, Traffic Paint, Agricultural Supplies and Services - Seeds & Plants, Dry Cell Batteries, Generators,
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Purchasing Update is a newsletter for the Department of Administration, Division of Purchasing designed to provide purchasing information to state and public agency purchasing personnel. Anyone wishing to contribute information and ideas for future articles; has questions regarding state purchasing issues; the Division of Purchasing mission or activities, please contact Frank Pierce at (208)-327-7322 or fpierce@adm.state.id.us